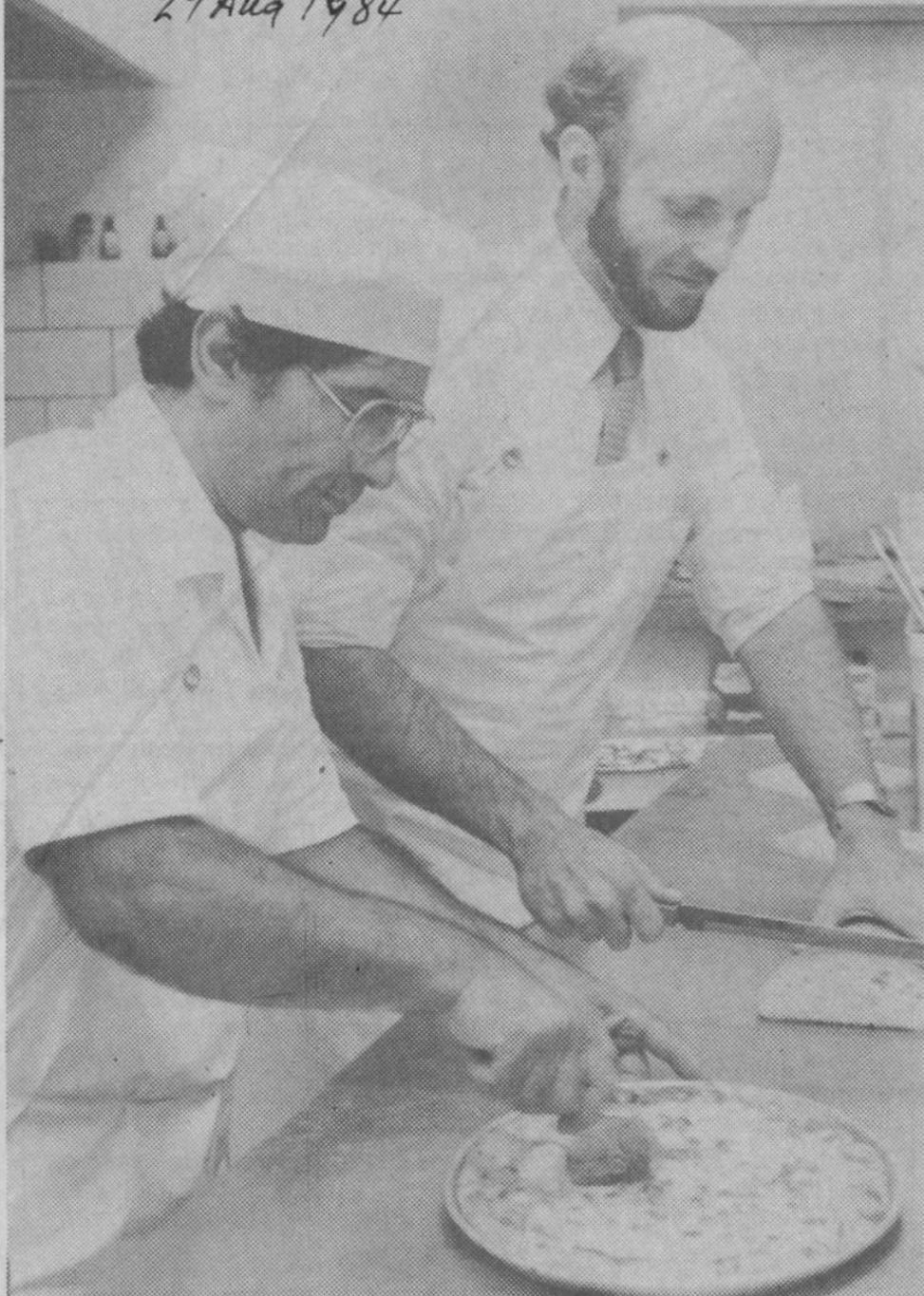


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Giovanni Della Corte, left, and Donell Willey prepare Italian dishes in the Provo restaurant they opened recently.

New Provo restaurant a result of mission in Italy 13 years ago

By Leo Perry

Deseret News staff writer

PROVO — The owners and operators of a new restaurant in Provo first met in Italy.

Giovanni Della Corte, who operated his own restaurant in Naples for more than 18 years, met Donell Jay Willey while Willey was serving a mission in Italy for the LDS Church.

The two offer their patrons the authentic foods and pastries of Italy at the new La Dolce Vita Ristorante, 61 N. First East.

A host of family members help serve and cook the meals. Corte's wife, Assunta, and his two sons, Gennari and Giacomo, work there, along with Willey and his wife, Denise.

The meeting occurred 13 years ago.

"All of the missionaries used to show up for meals at this Italian res-

taurant, and I was one of them who got to appreciate the cooking and friendship of Mr. Corte," Willey said.

Corte decided to try his cooking skills in United States, but it took him seven years to arrange for the proper papers and secure a sponsor, Willey said. "He ended up in Coalville to begin with and four years later came to Provo because he liked it here," he said.

Corte does not depend on other firms to provide most of the pastries that he serves. He bakes his bread and pastries in the baking shop of the restaurant.

Those who hunger for Italian cuisine can find lasagna, totellini, cannelloni, and rigatoni, as well as deep fried veal steak prepared in tomato sauce with melted cheese, and a meat ball sandwich. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$5.

its dismal record

By Sam Anderson
Deseret News correspondent

VERNAL — Last year a game with Uintah was a breather for other Region 7 schools. The Utes didn't win a game all season. But this season the team will be much improved, according to coach Curg Belcher.

"We had a terrible year last year," he said. "We just didn't have the athletes. It was probably the worst year we've ever had."

One of the big problems the Utes had last season was a lack of experience. This year is different. Six players graduated from last year's team, and with a new group of athletes from an outstanding sophomore team, Uintah could be competitive.

The entire offensive line, anchored by guard Rod Hilkee, is returning. "He's extremely quick," Belcher said of Hilkee. "He's a hard-nosed kid. A real eater. Rod's probably the best ballplayer of the bunch."

Uintah had an outstanding sophomore team last season and will rely on juniors from that squad this year. John Nash, one of the top sophomore players, will be the back and will be a player to watch. "He was probably the leading rusher in the sophomore league last season," Belcher said. "He's extremely fast."

Defensively, Kevin Lieshman will lead the Ute line. "He really loves to hit," Belcher said. Brian Smuin and Robert Merrill will head the secondary.

The quarterback spot is still up for grabs. Bob Ferreyra, Jody Williams and Larry Bartlett are the top contenders.

In the past football has attracted very little attention at Uintah and only a small groups of students participated. For reasons unknown to Belcher, 105 athletes are with the team this year. "Out here we're usually lucky to have one good first team, but this year we're extremely deep. Having 105 kids out for football is extremely unusual."

In addition to its depth, the Uintah team is larger physically. "We usually have a very small team," Belcher said. "But this year we're quite big. We've never had the size we do this year."

While the Ute running attack is expected to be strong, the passing game is still weak, Belcher said. "Our passing game is probably not up to par. We have the talent and the potential to be a good passing team with some fine receivers, but we're not there yet."

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